

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS COMMITTEE

April 4, 2001
MAG Saguaro Room, 2nd Floor
302 North First Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

*Jim Book, Chairman	* Ellis Perl, Surprise
Alan Sanderson, Mesa	Jim Decker, Tempe
Brian Latte, Chandler	* Tim Wolfe, ADOT
Bruce Ward, Gilbert	* Jim Matteson, Phoenix Aviation
Dale Thompson, Maricopa County	Ron Amaya for Scott Nodes, Peoria
Bob Steele, Phoenix	Charles Hydeman, Goodyear
Bob Ciotti, RPTA	* Mary Kihl, ASU
*Terry Conner, DPS	Alan Hansen, FHWA
Steve Ramsey for Bruce Dressel, Scottsdale	

* Not present or represented by proxy

OTHERS PRESENT

Sarath Joshua, MAG
Paul Ward, MAG

Patrick Fuller, PB Farradyne Inc.

1. Call to Order

Acting Chairman Alan Sanderson called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

2. Approval of March 7, 2001, Meeting Minutes

Brian Latter moved and Jim Decker seconded, and it was unanimously carried to approve minutes of the March 7, 2001 ITS Committee meeting.

3. Call to Audience

Acting Chairman Alan Sanderson made a call to the audience providing an opportunity to members of the public to address the ITS Committee. There was no comment from the audience.

4. Program Manager's Report

Freeway Service Patrol Project: This project is proceeding very well with six Roadside Motorist Assistants providing services. A press event was held at the state capitol where Governor Hull

praised the program. An email on this event was sent to all the members. A news item was also sent to ITS America and was posted at their Public Safety web page.

Desert Peaks Awards: These awards are given to regional projects and initiatives that promote regionalism. Committee Chair, Jim Book, has nominated the Freeway Service Patrol project for an award in the category of Public-Private Partnerships.

USDOT RFA on Pedestrian ITS/Safety Grants: Sarath Joshua indicated that Tempe has expressed interest in pursuing this grant and asked if any other city was interested.

Millenium Edition of the MUTCD: This edition of the MUTCD was released and some members attended a national video conference held recently to discuss key features. The entire document is available at the website:

<http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/kno-millennium.htm>

MAG Wide Area Network Study: Sarath Joshua informed the committee that the contract for this project is being negotiated and is expected to be signed soon.

Additional Funds for ITS Projects:

Paul Ward was requested to elaborate on how this occurred and described how an additional \$12.3 million became available for programming during the interim TIP closeout process. These additional funds have become available mainly due to the inability of MAG member agencies to obligate programmed projects in time. MAG is exploring the possibility of accelerating FY 2002 projects to the current year to utilize these funds.

Mr. Ward stated that projects programmed for 2002 or later can be accelerated. Chuck Hydeman asked if the funds can be utilized for a fiber optic project that he would like to accelerate to the current year. Paul Ward replied that if the required environmental requirements are satisfied then the project may be able to go ahead. Brian Latte stated that ADOT allows a abbreviated permit process with one-page environmental assessment. Final approval of the new projects will have to go through the normal TRC, Management Committee and Regional Council Approvals. Brian Latte stated that in the case of Goodyear there may be a need to

Alan Sanderson pointed out that a Mesa project was requested to be deferred to the following year. Jim Decker asked if there was an opportunity to submit new projects for available funding that were not already programmed. Sarath Joshua asked Paul Ward if there was any opportunity in the programming process to include such projects. Paul Ward stated that new projects cannot be brought in to the program that way. He also emphasized that the time needed to develop federally funded projects would make it extremely difficult to do that. A question was asked if during the TIP process contingency projects could be identified for later funding if funding became available.

Alan Hansen stated that federal guidelines allow for illustrative or demonstration projects that may meet these requirements. Paul Ward stated that it was his understanding that such projects were

not meant for contingency projects. The requirement that the TIP needs to be financially constrained, particularly the first year, rules out contingency projects. He further stated that current guidelines do not rule out the possibility of any agency submitting an entirely new project during the closeout process and then developing it to ADOT requirements and have it obligated in time. He noted, however, that it would be a very difficult task. Bob Ciotti asked

5. Implementing the Plan

Sarath Joshua explained that this agenda item resulted from a question by a member at a previous meeting on how the committee planned to make sure that the Strategic Plan got implemented. The committee agreed to address this issue at a future meeting. This time of the year was identified as appropriate to consider this issue as we prepare for the next round of TIP submissions a few months down the road. The process for rating/selecting ITS projects need to be finalized by end June.

The Plan recommended that:

MAG ITS Committee should modify the project rating system to encourage implementation of projects included in the Strategic Plan

Short-Term 2002 - 2006

Medium Term 2007 - 2011

Long-Term 2013 - 2021

Brian Latte suggested that a full listing of recommended projects from the Plan be provided to committee members when projects are solicited by MAG. He also suggested that projects identified for individual member agencies be preprinted on the project submission forms. Chairman Sanderson noted that it makes sense to give priority for projects identified in the Plan.

Dale Thompson said that as the Plan will age as years go by we should leave room for new projects to be submitted. Alan Sanderson replied that we should always maintain flexibility to program projects.

Sarath Joshua stated that the first five years of the Plan already include projects already programmed. The second five years 2007-2011 will begin to be programmed at the next Tip cycle.

Jim Decker suggested that bonus points can be given to projects in the Plan. Dale Thompson agreed with that suggestion. Chairman Sanderson asked is it was necessary to reconvene a group to look at the rating system. In response to a question on the ITS project rating system, Sarath Joshua replied that having such a rating system was not a requirement but the committee had felt it would be useful to develop a rating system. Noting that the ITS Project Rating System was far from perfect Sarath Joshua stated that the final step in the current project ranking process was entirely subjective.

Consensus was to keep the ITS Rating System for now and figure out a way to include ITS Plan in the system. Sarath Joshua agreed to provide a description of the existing Rating System at the next meeting with some suggestions on how to modify the system to include Plan recommendations.

6. Status Reports by Committee Members on ITS Activities

Bob Steele stated that Phoenix is having a project with Transcore to compare their NTCIP implementation with Lakewood Colorado. Phoenix is ready to go out to bid on the 50 mile fiber backbone. Phoenix is also working on the LRT project looking at signal priority issues etc. Bus priority is also being addressed as part of the LRT project. Alan Sanderson asked Bob Steele for a copy of the report from LA

Alan Hansen indicated that he is currently testing a software called NTCIP Spec Wizard. When you are done it will give the specification for a signal spec. He asked anyone interested in seeing that to contact him. Bob Steele said that he has seen it and recommended it highly.

Steve Ramsey stated that work was done recently on getting to AZTech workstations working. He wondered if the region should have a more unified website for traffic information to make all the links accessible. He said that HCRS system is being used a lot to report on construction projects, capital projects etc. Sarath Joshua asked if there was any feedback on its usefulness. Steve Ramsey replied that there was no information available on that. All major accidents are reported on HCRS.

Dale stated that TRW was in town and was going around with Mesa and Scottsdale to get their systems up and running. He said that if that software logic can be used in Phoenix we will be able to get Phoenix traffic data into the TRW workstation. The data archiving project will then make all that data available for traffic management and planning purposes. Scottsdale stated that soon someone at MCDOT or ADOT will be able to see, and even possibly change, cycle length and plan number for signals at Scottsdale. Scottsdale is working on a uniform timing plan so that ADOT can select plan A and always provide N-S priority for traffic flow.

7. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date was announced as 10:00 A.M. on Wednesday May 2nd.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Acting Chairman Alan Sanderson at 11:30 A.M.